

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /089 W

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R 150700Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7578

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASQH AMMAN

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E.,9. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: HAMDI'S VISIT TO CAIRO: TURNING A NEW LEAF IN
YEMEN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

REF: SANA 0716, CAIRO 3153

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. HAMDI 1-3 MARCH VISIT TO CAIRO
ELECTED SOME AID, APPARENTLY, BUT PRODUCED LITTLE
ELSE OF SUBSTANCE. NEVERTHELESS, TRIP HAS SIGNIFICANCE
WHEN SET AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF YEMEN-EGYPTIAN
RELATIONS IN LATE 60'S. END SUMMARY.7

2. ALTHOUGH YEMENIS CONCEDE KV1962 REVOLUTION WOULD
HAVE FAILED WITHOUT MASSIVE EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE, RESENTMENT
AGAINST WHAT AMOUNTED TO MILITARY OCCUPATION IN YEARS
1962-67 VERY STRONG IN YAR UNTIL EARLY 1970S. IF ANYTHING,
THEREFORE, HAMDI'S MARCH 1-3 MVISIT TO CAIRO WAS FORMAL
INDICATION THAT YEMEN HAS FINALLY TURNED THE CORNER IN ITS
RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. TRIP ITSELF PROVIDED VERY LITTLE
IN WAY OF SUBSTANCE. EGYPT AGREED PROVIDE MODEST
AMOUNTS TECHNICAL AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE AND NEW
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COMMITTEE CREATED TO COORDINATE MATTERS OF BILATERAL

INTEREST. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH
LIKELIHOOD EGYPT APPRISED YAR LEADERS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN
SAUDI/EGYPTIAN PDRY INITIATIVE.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED AT VISIT'S END CONCENTRATED ON
GENERAL ARAB SITUATION. IN VIEW OBSERVERS HERE, YEMENIS
GAVE SURPRISING OPEN AND FULL EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT
FOR EGYPTIAN (AS OPPOSED TO SYRIAN) EFFORTS AND
VIEWS IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

4. ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, AGREEMENT APPARENTLY SIGNED IN
CAIRO WHEREBY EGYPT WILL PROVIDE EXPERTS TO YEMEN
MINISTRIES OF ECONOMY, HEALTH, INTERIOR, MUNICIPALITIES,
AND OTHER YAR INSTITUTIONS. MOFA OFFICIAL WILL ALSO BE
TRAINED IN EGYPT. THREE MEMBERS YAR DELEGATION
(MINSTAE BASINDWA, DEPMIN INFORMATION MUHAMMAD AL-RUAYNI,
AND MINHEALTH ABD AL-MALIK ABDALLA) REMAINED IN CAIRO TWO
EXTRA DAYS TO DISCUSS DETAILS. IN SAME VEIN, TWO COUNTRIES
DECIDED ESTABLISH FULLER COMMITTEE TO FOLLOW UP PROPOSED
PROJECTS OR ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

5. NEWSPAPER REPORTS IN SANA FOLLOWING DELEGATION'S RETURN
STATED THAT EGYPTIAN MINED AGREED TO INCREASE NUMBER OF
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN MEDICAL/ENGINEERING FACULTIES
TO 1000 RPT 1000.

6. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS IN SANA THAT EGYPT AGREED
TO SEND LIMITED NUMBER TECHNICAL MILITARY ADVISERS TO
YAR.

COMMENT: WHAT ALL YEMENI LASERS HAVE IN COMMON TODAY --
REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PERSUASION -- IS A BITTER AND
OUTSPOKEN MEMORY OF EGYPTIAN TREATMENT IN LATE SIXTIES.
YAR PRESIDENT HAMDI WAS ONE OF TWENTY SEVEN KEY
REPUBLICANS WHO PUT IN HARSH AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR
TEN MONTHS IN EGYPT DURING 1966-67. STILL, HE HAS LED
OFFICIAL MOVE TO IMPROVE EGYPTIAN IMAGE HERE, EVEN
GOING TO EXTENT OF APPROVING YAR FUNDS TO FINISH
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EGYPTIAN WAR MEMORIAL HERE AND REFURBISH EGYPTIAN
MILITARY GRAVEYARD. (THERE HAS BEEN SOME LOCAL
QUESTIONING HERE ABOUT WHETHER THESE MOVES CELEBRATED
YEMENI COURAGE IN FACING WELL-ARMED EGYPTIAN ARMY OR
EGYPTIAN GENEROSITY IN DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION. IN YEMEN
BOTH ANSWERS PROBABLY RIGHT.) CLEARLY YARG IS READY FOR
PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND,
IN ANY CASE, GOOD RELATIONS WITH EGYPT KEY TO CONTROLLING CAIRO

EXILES LIKE AL-AYNI, AND HAMDİ REPORTEDLY GOT PROVIDE TO
KEEP SUCH GROUPS UNDER CONTROL. HAMDİ ALSO GOT MUCH APPRECIATED
EXPOSURE AS LEADER IN ARAB WORLD CONCERNED WITH MATTERS
BROADER THAN POWER STRUGGLES IN YEMEN. FINALLY HAMDİ
REPORTEDLY GOT GOOD BRIEFING, IN ADVANCE, ON SAG-PDRY
RAPPROACHMENT EFFORTS. HAMDİ DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN
(OR SOUGHT) ANY PROMISES ON HOARD OF SILVER AND GOLD WHICH
CARRIED TO CAIRO FOR SAFEKEEPING AFTER THE 1962
REVOLUTION, BUT NEW EGYPTIAN CIVILIAN AID OFFER SHOULD
OFFSET YEMENI FEELINGS ON THIS SUBJECT. ON BALANCE,
YEMENIS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THEIR RECEPTION AND
IMPROVEMENT THEIR RELATIONS WITH EGYPT.
SCOTES

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